

Rush Green Primary School



Safeguarding Pupils Walking Between Home and School – Policy and Agreement

Date written: April 2025

To be reviewed: April 2026

All Infant Pupils (Nursery to Year 2) and Lower KS2 (Year 3 to Year 4 pupils)

Our agreed school policy is that no infant child should journey to and from school on their own, or be left on their own, on the school premises either before or after school.

We will only hand over pupils to older siblings when they are deemed responsible and mature enough. However, if the professional judgement of the adult at school deems the older sibling not to be suitable, they will not hand the child over.

Pupils will not be handed over to other adults unless the school has been informed by the parent that they have made this arrangement. We also ask that you keep us informed of any changes in arrangements.

If someone turns up to collect your child and we have not been notified, the adult will have to wait until we have verified his or her identity.

If no one turns up to collect a child in these year groups, they will be kept in school and parents contacted. If the child is not collected and we have failed to make contact with the child's carer, we will consult with Children's Services.

We will not allow older brothers or sisters in school to collect younger siblings unless they are deemed responsible enough and mature enough to do so. In most cases we would expect the sibling to be aged 16 and over.

Pupils in Upper KS2 (Year 5 to Year 6)

In some circumstances we give permission for responsible and sensible children in Year 5 and Year 6 to make their own way between home and school. This has to be requested/agreed by parents in writing via the school office email address.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT

The school reserves the right to withdraw this permission if children:

- **Are deemed by staff to not yet be ready to travel independently to and from school**
- **Attempt to abscond from the school site or are deemed by staff to be a danger to themselves or others**
- **Arrive unreasonably early to school (before the gates are opened)**
- **Misbehave on the way to or from school**
- **It is unsafe**
- **It is too dark**

In deciding whether your child is ready to walk to school you should assess any risks associated with the route and your child's confidence. Work with your children to build up their independence while walking to school through route finding, road safety skills and general awareness. There are many ways you can prepare your child to make an independent journey. Children who are driven to school do not have the opportunity to develop road awareness and are therefore more vulnerable when they start to walk to school independently.

Walking to school is a great opportunity to learn road safety skills. The best way to do this is to walk with your children from a young age, teaching them about crossing the road, learning how to navigate and a host of other skills. This helps them gain the experience and confidence to deal with traffic and way finding on their own, in preparation for walking with friends or alone when they are older.

Teach your child to:

- Pay attention to traffic at all times when crossing the street; never become distracted.
- Always cross at the intersection where there are traffic lights; do not cross in the middle of the road. Alternatively cross in a place where you can see clearly in all directions. Avoid parked cars or bends in the road.
- Look both ways before crossing; listen for traffic coming; cross while keeping an eye on traffic.
- Look out for cyclists and electric scooters.
- Remember that drivers may not see them, even if they can see the driver.
- Remember that it is hard to judge the speed of a car so be cautious.
- Never, ever, follow someone who is either a stranger or someone they know but is not a designated "safe" adult. Speak to your child about what they should do if this should ever happen.

When deciding whether your child is ready for this responsibility you might want to consider the following:

1. Do you trust them to walk straight home?
2. Do you trust them to behave sensibly when with a friend?
3. Are they road safety aware?
4. Would they know what to do if a stranger approaches them?
5. Would they have the confidence to refuse to do what a stranger asked?

6. Would they know the best action to take if a stranger tried to make them do something they did not want to do?
7. Would they know what to do if they needed help?
8. Would they know whom best to approach to get help?

If you are not confident about how your child would react then you should seriously consider whether you should allow them to walk on their own. If you decide that your child is ready for this responsibility then you must inform the school by letter or by completing the slip below/on line form. Your child will be prevented from walking home unless this permission has been given in writing.

Your child will also be responsible for their behaviour whilst on the school premises either before or after school. Should their behaviour not be acceptable you will be asked to accompany them or collect them until they have proven they can be trusted again.

Children deemed arriving too early may be placed in the Breakfast and After School Club and you will be charged for the cost of the morning session.

We will not allow children to walk home alone in the dark. Please bear in mind that if they are attending an after-school club it may be dark when the club finishes. We will only allow children to walk home from clubs during the summer term – if it is still light.

We do not allow Primary aged children to be responsible for other primary aged children when walking home, so if you allow your Year 6 child to walk home alone with permission this will generally be agreed, however they will not be allowed to take home younger siblings and be responsible for them.

Where children walk to, or walk home from school, alone, we would expect that a parent, or other responsible person, is at home when they leave or arrive.

IF AT ANY TIME YOU NEED TO CHANGE ARRANGEMENTS, PLEASE LET US KNOW IMMEDIATELY!

Please complete and return the agreement form (next page), if you wish your child to make their own journey to and from school.

YEAR 5 & 6 PUPIL PERMISSION TO INDEPENDENTLY JOURNEY TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Dear Parent/Carer,

Now that your child is in year 5 or year 6, we are able to offer the opportunity for them to make their own way to and from school (subject to our terms above).

Please note that when it is dark, no child will be walking home on their own. For example, after a school club or activity.

Please complete and return the slip below if you wish your child to travel to and from school independently. Without this slip, your child will not be allowed to walk home by themselves.

This form should be handed in to your child's class teacher as soon as possible.

Yours Sincerely,

The Rush Green Team

Name of child: _____

Class: _____

I give permission for my child to walk home on their own and understand the terms and conditions of this agreement.

Name of parent (block capitals): _____

Signature of parent: _____ Date: _____